Transfer of telecom circles to MTNL

3845. SHRI R. S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to transfer the two metro telecom circles of Chennai and Calcutta to MTNL;

(b) whether Government also propose to moot joint venture for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government are also thinking to give some more telecom circles to the MTNL; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In view of reply to (b) above, the question does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) In view of reply to (d) above, the question does not arise.

Inadequate communication facility in Meghalaya

3846. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the communication facility in Meghalaya is not adequate for rapid industrialisation and export growth; and

(b) if so, the necessary steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Meghalaya State consists of 61 telephone exchanges, all being electronic type. All District Headquarters and Sub-Divisional Headquarters are having exchanges with STD facility on reliable communication media. It is also planned to make telephone available on demand in N. E. Region including Meghalaya by March, 2001. Modern

telecom facilities such as Internet, Integrated Digital Network Services Intelligent Network Services and Cellular Mobile Services are also available in Meghalaya. Further expansion of Telecom Network and Services are being done.

Waiting list for telephone connections in Shillong

3847. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for new telephone connections in Shillong, the capital of Meghalaya as on 31st January, 2000;

(b) the number of telephone connections allotted in Meghalaya during the last 3 years, district-wise; and

(c) the effective measures being taken by Government to grant telephone connections to all the wait-listed persons ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The number of persons on the waiting list for new telephone connections in Shillong, the capital of Meghalaya as on 31st January, 2000 was 77.

(b) The number of telephone connections allotted in Meghalaya during the last 3 years, district-wise is given below :

Name of District	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
East Khasi Hills	2191	2847	4854
West Khasi Hills	93	56	122
East Garo Hills	37	69	105
West Garo Hills	263	748	686
South Garo Hills	Nil	3	36
Ri-Bhoi	41	57	213
Jaintia Hills	121	234	298

(c) Opening of new telephone exchanges and expansion of existing exchanges have been planned to grant telephone connections to all the wait-listed persons by March, 2001 progressively.